

June 30, 2021

FAQ for Confirmation of Certificate of testing for COVID-19

1 If a valid specimen and test method are not listed, is it invalid?

The certificate will not be valid if it does not contain a valid specimen or test method. For example, if the certificate states nasal and throat swab as the specimen, then it is not valid. For more information on specimens and testing methods that can be accepted as valid certificates, please refer to the Guidance "Requirements for Test Certificates Required for Entry into Japan" (hereinafter referred to as the Guidance).

2 If the doctor's name is not listed, will it be invalid?

Certificates issued by the following countries/regions may be accepted for boarding even if the doctor's name is not listed:

Eswatini, Seychelles, Chile, Germany, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the United States of America, South Africa, Lesotho

3 Why are *nasopharyngeal swab*, *saliva* as well as *nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab* the only specified specimens for testing?

The specimens required for the certificate at the time of entry into Japan are the same as the specimens recommended for testing asymptomatic persons in Japan. The recommended specimens for testing asymptomatic persons are listed in the Guidelines for Testing for Pathogens of Novel Coronavirus Infections (<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000747986.pdf>), and currently include *nasopharyngeal swabs* and *saliva*.

In addition, *nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab* has been added to the list of valid specimens for travelers arriving in Japan after midnight (Japan time) on July 1, 2021, following an approval by the Council of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare on June 25, 2021, as a valid specimen for pre-departure testing of travelers to Japan.

4 What happens if a flight is cancelled or delayed significantly on the day of departure, and the passenger has to leave the country after 72 hours?

If the expected arrival time of a changed flight is within an additional 24 hours after the original 72 hours from the time you collected the specimen, then you do not need to obtain another certificate. We ask for your understanding and cooperation in obtaining the test certificate, as it is necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

5 Do children also need to obtain a certificate?

We request that children also obtain a certificate.

However, in consideration of the fact that many countries do not test preschool-aged children as part of their system, the quarantine official will ask the reason why the child (generally under the age of 6) could not obtain the certificates. If the caregivers, including parents accompanying the child have a negative test certificate, then the child does not need to have a certificate.

6 If the certificate is not in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, will it be invalid?

In order to avoid confusion in places such as airport check-in counters, please use the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Please also note that if you have no choice but to use a format other than the prescribed format due to circumstances in your country or region, it may take additional time for verification at the time of boarding and when landing in Japan. Moreover, if such a format turns out to be incomplete, you may be denied boarding or entry into Japan.

If there are unavoidable circumstances such as the inability to obtain a test certificate in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare at medical or testing institutions at the place of departure, then please consult with the diplomatic or consular missions of Japan at the place of departure well in advance.

Only test certificates that contain valid specimens and test methods will be considered valid. As such,

- Please carefully check the designated criteria of the specimens and test methods to see if they will be regarded as valid.

- Please make sure that the information on the certificate is complete.

- In case you use format other than the prescribed format, please highlight the required information in that format, such as the specimen and the test method, in order to help facilitate the verification procedures of the test certificate.

7 If a certificate that does not use the specified format is not written in English or Japanese, is it invalid?
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If the certificate is written in languages other than English or Japanese, it will be considered invalid, because the contents of the certificate cannot be determined. However, if an English or Japanese translation of the certificate is attached and the contents of the certificate can be determined, then the certificate is considered valid.

If a false translation is attached in order to make it appear as if the certificate were valid, then penalties may be applied in accordance with the Japanese Quarantine Law.